



## TERMS OF REFERENCE for a LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

### Restoration & Building Climate Resiliency at Rand Nature Centre

The Bahamas National Trust has received grant funding from the Bahamas Protected Areas Fund (BPAF), under a Special Call for Proposals for conducting assessments and fulfilling recovery efforts post Hurricane Dorian. This project grant includes sub-contracting a Landscape Architect who will work with the project manager, project team and other consultants to develop a landscape plan to complete the design and restoration of the Native & Tropical Plant Arboretum at Rand Nature Centre in Freeport, Grand Bahama in The Bahamas.

#### Background and Justification

Native plants and trees have historically and still presently offer an important source of income, food and cultural identity for Bahamian communities. Overharvesting, particularly of important boat building, furniture production, and medicinal species has negatively affected the sustainability of stocks throughout the country. Low population levels of certain native species especially in the Northern Bahamas has made additional harvesting and processing of these species economically unviable for many, and natural disasters (e.g., hurricanes) pose serious risks for the resilience of native coppice. In general, residents are uninformed about the severity of the resource depletion, limiting the ability for stakeholders to capture benefits from harvesting sustainably. The decline in native plant and tree stocks have threatened and eliminated the livelihoods of many, especially those with limited alternative employment opportunities. Additionally, many young people do not have the opportunity to learn about these species as a part of their cultural identity. The Native & Tropical Plant Arboretum will be an educational resource for persons visiting the Rand Nature Centre facility, to learn about native plants and trees, how they interact with each other and the benefits they provide to individuals and communities.

The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) is the Executing Agency for this program. The BNT will carry out activities in the following three (3) components with the goal of completing and officially opening the Native & Tropical Plant Arboretum.

**Component 1: Building stocks of native plants and trees.** The benefits of this component will be increased stocks of resilient native fruit bearing, hard wood and general coppice plants and trees in Grand Bahama. The arboretum will serve as a preserve for native species that are not commonly found on Grand Bahama. Additional plants and trees will be produced by seeds to assist in repopulating areas where stocks were lost due to Hurricane Dorian.

**Component 2: Installing interpretive signage.** With this component, residents, visitors and other stakeholders will learn about the uses of the various flora species. Through this, individuals and communities will have increased capacity to manage and utilize native flora species responsibly.

**Component 3: Creating a cultural and educational experience.** The aim of this component is to have students, residents and visitors engaged in cultural and educational programs through which knowledge can be shared to the benefit of communities.

**Component 4. Monitoring and Evaluation.** This component will monitor, evaluate, and disseminate the results of the project. This will involve surveys to monitor growth rates, plant health etc.

#### Primary Objectives of the Consultancy are to:

- Create a Landscape plan inclusive of drawings, images and flora recommendations. Based on the area outlined by the Project Manager.
- Include considerations for hardscape and trail designs in the plan.

**Duration:**

The landscape plan should be finalized by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Implementation of the project will begin in February 2022.

**Deliverables:**

1. Full project work plan for this Consultancy – including any tentative travel dates for site visits.
2. Develop a methodology on how to properly care for and monitor selected flora and hardscape.
3. Create a first draft of the landscape plan for the Project Manager and key team members to review.
4. Revise and produce final draft of the landscape plan based on any recommendations given.
5. Execute a post assessment to ensure that the plan was accurately followed.

**Qualifications/Experiences/Competencies:**

- At least five (5) years of experience in landscape planning techniques is required
- Excellent writing and presentation skills in English language
- Proven experience in creating and editing quality digital products for development projects
- Creativity and openness to building concepts in landscape design
- Able to work well with small communities and people from diverse backgrounds physically or remotely
- Additional points will be awarded for consultants with international awarded experience

The Consultant is being selected in accordance with procedures set out by the Bahamas National Trust and Bahamas Protected Areas Fund (BPAF).

Deadline to submit bid application is November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Should you have any questions, please email [eweir@bnt.bs](mailto:eweir@bnt.bs) or [jjohnson@bnt.bs](mailto:jjohnson@bnt.bs).

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